

*“Serving all people by sharing God’s Word
and Gift of Grace”*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pr. Tsena Dinssa

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The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

March 2021



The true story of God’s work for our salvation, the story of Jesus

In the first week of my life in Erskine a friend told me to write on ‘why we do what we do in the church.’ That reminded me seasons of the church years, for what we do depends on the season we are in.

The four weeks of **ADVENT** set the stage for the next 48 that follow. For the first half-year, as we always do, we follow the story of Jesus. It starts with His birth in Bethlehem (**Christmas**). Then move on to how He reveals Himself as the Messiah through the season of **Epiphany**. Epiphany has its root from a Greek word, 'epiphainein', meaning 'reveal' or to be visible or appearance.

Christmas was about Jesus as fully human—a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger. But Epiphany is about Jesus who is fully divine—the Son of God. That is God revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, ...” (Heb. 1:3a).

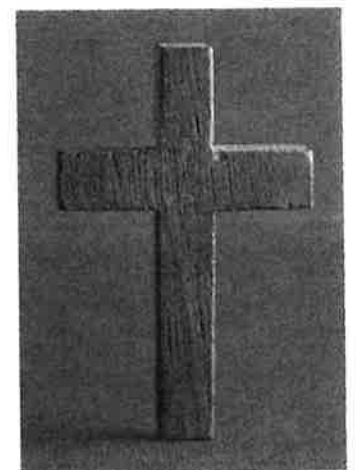
Starting with **ASH WEDNESDAY**, we are reminded of Jesus’ faithful and intentional journey to the cross throughout the season of **LENT**. We are in the Lent season now. As we fix our eyes on the crucified Christ, lent is the season of change and season of turning to God and season of growth for us. It is the season that is somber and reflective as we pray in humility knowing that our sinfulness is no different than any humans’ that have come before us, but that we ask God to forgive us and make us his new creatures in the waters of our baptism.

The Lenten journey is one of reflection, sacrifice, and repentance when we can intensify our prayer with fasting.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	2 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF	3 12pm-Quilting 7pm-Lenten Service on GV Channel 30	4 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	5	6 9am- Rebroadcast
7 9:45am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Commu- nion	8 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	9 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	10 12pm-Quilting 7pm-Lenten Service on GV Channel 30 7pm-Council mtg.	11 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	12	13 9am- Rebroadcast
14 9:45am- Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Commu- nion 11:30am-Annual Meeting	15 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	16 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	17 12pm-Quilting 7pm-Lenten Service on GV Channel 30	18 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	19	20 9am- Rebroadcast
21 9:45am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	22 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	23 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	24 12pm-Quilting 7pm-Lenten Service on GV Channel 30	25 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	26	27 9am- Rebroadcast
28 Palm Sunday 9:45am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	29 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	30 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	31 12pm-Quilting 7pm-Rebroadcast			

CIRCLES
Hope
Rebecca
Mission

at the church
at the church
no meeting

Ushers :
Communion Assistants:

Altar Flowers:
Mission Circle
Altar Guild:
Mary Bratrud

R= Reader
V= Video

A=Acolyte
MARCH 7th:

R~
V~
A~

MARCH 14th:

R~
V~
A~

MARCH 21st:

R~
V~
A~

MARCH 28th:

R~
V~
A~



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday March 10th at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated.



January 31st:
Attendance~6
Offering~\$1,700.00
February 7th:
Attendance~6
Offering~\$ 1,455.00
February 14th:
Attendance~7
Offering~ \$1,950.00
February 21st:
Attendance~ 30
Offering~\$1,715.00

"I was sick and you visited me..."
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

As deacons we are committed to making pastoral visits to the sick and dying. If someone were to call with a prayer request you may ask them if they wish a visit and give them our information.

We thought the congregation should be aware of this commitment with it being addressed in a bulletin from time to time and same with the scroll.

*Mary Bratrud~ 218-521-0793 (daytime)

218-687-2150 (nighttime)

*Gary Walter~ 218-687-3074

*Gene Haugom~218-563-3292



The 'Women of Grace' young women's Bible Study are meeting via Zoom. If you're interested in joining, contact Rhonda Breitbach at 687-2215.



**NALCW Meeting:
See you in April**

Hope Circle: March 25th, 2:00 PM at the church

Rebecca Circle: March 25th, 6:30 PM at the church

Mission Circle: will not meet in March



REMINDER – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered's Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating 1 percent of the total purchases to the youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.





Socio-Emotional: 11-year-olds in East Indonesia are learning to ...

- Communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings
- Take responsibility for positive and negative actions
- Consider the needs and opinions of others
- Resist negative peer pressure

Pray for Ran's socio-emotional growth as he:

- Demonstrates empathy and compassion during conflict
- Works cooperatively with others to accomplish tasks



Ran
11 years old

Physical: 11-year-olds in East Indonesia will likely ...

- Display energy and endurance for physical activity
- Observe a balanced diet
- Experience fewer illnesses
- Abstain from harmful behaviors, like smoking and drinking
- Dress modestly and appropriately

Pray for Ran's physical growth as he:

- Begins practicing at least one physical activity or sport regularly
- Develops an understanding of healthy habits to prevent sickness

See how Ran is growing!

Spiritual: 11-year-olds in East Indonesia are learning to ...

- Locate books in the Bible
- Explain lessons drawn from Bible stories
- Understand the importance of confessing sins and asking for forgiveness
- Have a personal devotional and prayer time

Pray for Ran's spiritual growth as he:

- Develops an understanding of confession and forgiveness
- Develops a personal devotional and prayer time

Cognitive:

- Explain abstract concepts (love, war, poverty)
- Compare and contrast
- Participate in Compassion center activities and organized games/sports
- Concentrate for long periods of time
- Set goals

- Develops study habits
- Participates in workshops and activities at the Compassion center



Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

Automatic Giving – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete.
Online Giving – There are several links throughout our website (www.gracechurcherskine.org) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.
Mobile Giving – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



Benevolence Ideas

Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Improvements, Grace Youth Group, Joy Ride Fund, Oil Candle, Sunday School Improvements/Supplies, Sunday School Outreach, Video Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Worship Hearing Aids, 'Men of Courage' Men's Group, and Shoebox Funds. In addition, our church houses the Grace Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf as well as for the After School Backpack Program. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.



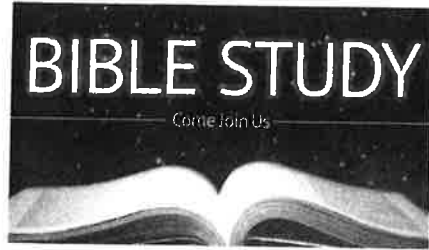
January 2021 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$10,935.00

Expenses:

- Administrative - \$7,646.63
- Education - \$495.40
- Mission Outreach - \$0
- Pastoral - \$6,442.93
- Worship - \$436.01
- Total Expenses - \$15,020.97





Lent is a time of reflection. If you are yearning for fellowship with women and want a new bible study format try BSF for lent. Starting March 23rd, 3 pm we begin a mini series on Joseph as part of our Genesis study. The study will continue for five weeks. Join us Tuesday afternoons or for more information call Mary Bratrud 218. 521. 0793.

- * Becki Haugen
- * Don Lundin
- * Sonja Kilberg
- * Michael Jenson
- * Mark Thompson



Okay, Quilters! Grab your needles and scissors. Quilting at Grace Church will begin on Wednesday March 3rd at 12:00 p.m.

Our Covid-19 protocol is still in effect so don't forget your mask.



*Grace Church is now LIVE on Garden Valley Channel 30. You can tune in at 10:30 AM Sunday morning and catch our Worship Service live.

We also continue to offer the other options we've had in the past.

* Type gracechurcherskine.org into your computer browser. You will see the YouTube recording front and center on the page. Click the Play button in the center of the picture to view the video. You will also find a link to our church Facebook page on the right side of the screen.

* Garden Valley Channel 30 will broadcast replays of our service on Mondays at 10:00 am, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and on Saturdays at 9:00 am.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School for all ages, including junior high, is now meeting from 9:45 to 10:20.

We will ask that students (and parents):

- *Use sanitizer when entering the building/classroom.
- *Wear a mask that covers nose and mouth.
- *Maintain social distancing-please don't congregate/group up during drop off or pick up times.
- *Keep kids home if they don't feel well.

We will have sanitizer in all rooms, and provide all supplies individually labeled and stored for each student. We will be meeting in classrooms with doors open if numbers allow, or meeting in other open areas of the church to maintain social distancing.

If you'd prefer to keep doing Sunday School at home, digital lessons will still be available through our last day of Sunday

April 25. Just let me know if you'd like to continue to receive them.

We are still looking for teachers to share a class with someone else. If you are having your kids join us for Sunday School, would you consider teaming up with someone for a class? By sharing a class, you will be responsible for only 5 weeks of lessons. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered already!

Any questions, contact Ann Brekken.



Hello Ladies!

Time is near for our first meeting of the year on April 8, 2021, at 2:00. Mark your calendars with this correction. Last December I wrote that it was April 22. Not so. That is my Rebecca Circle date. Sorry for that. We will make plans for our year then, so if you have new ideas bring them with you. We'll talk about past favorites and maybe come up with some new things we would like for this year. All women of Grace are invited and welcomed. Please join us as a

first timer if you haven't been here before. This group belongs to all our women. Please come as you can. That means before and/or after your shift/day even if the times don't match. Come late, leave early as you can. We'd love to see you.

Have you started your Mission Bank. I have but it keeps moving around and then I remember it. We'll collect them in May. Anyone can join us in this project in the congregation.

Our service books will be out in March. We will still be using the \$50.00 Fund for funding Funeral service. This can be given to your chairman or Barb Gaalswyk in March. Since church has opened, there may be funeral service allowed soon if guidance permits. Easter is coming soon!! Have a blessed Lenten season as we journey toward the cross. It is my favorite time in the church year.

God's Blessings!



A portion of the back pew, that was removed to make room for our new video equipment, is up for grabs. It's not in perfect condition and will need some work, BUT, some of the best Lutherans I know have sat in that pew.

If you're interested, let the church office know.

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jason Carlson	President	563-2490
Nick Walk	Vice President	637-2219
Yvonne Halvorson	Secretary	687-5190
Dorothy Sandberg	Financial Secretary	687-3575
Jim Ferden	Treasurer	563-2377
Gene Haugom	Deacon	563-3292
Gary Walter	Deacon	687-3074
Mary Bratrud	Deacon	687-2150
Wade Farrell	Trustee	563-2216
Ryan Breitbach	Trustee	687-2215
Dean Bernard	Trustee	687-2105
Ann Brekken	Superintendent / Education	687-2205
Sarah Strom	Education	687-3488
Shelly Juve	Education	687-2929
Cassie Senn	Education	687-3313
Hollie Stewart	Pres. NALCW	687-3730
Lori Hole	Stewardship	687-3585
Tyler Brekken	Stewardship	687-2205
Bobbi DuChamp	Stewardship	687-3000



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 2:13-22, 23-25

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:32-34, 35-45

Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 118:19-29

Alternate Reading – Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47



Grace Church is ready to welcome you back to in person worship services beginning February 21st at 10:30 a.m.

Because we are still in the midst of a pandemic, we have to be mindful of many things. That being said, things will be different for the time being.

- Masks that cover the nose and mouth are required while in the church
- We ask that anyone attending worship uses hand sanitizer upon entering the building
- Avoid congregating while in the church
- After worship, wait in your seat to be excused.



FROM THE PASTOR, con't.

Fasting is a common spiritual practice in Lent. Spiritual fasting is usually abstaining from food and drink for a certain period of time. People who fasted in the Bible include Moses, David, Daniel, Anna, Paul, and Jesus Christ. The purpose of fasting is to aid in focusing the inner heart upon God. Yet fasting has been neglected, forgotten, and viewed as unusual & anachronistic in contemporary Christian culture. Therefore, I prepared a pre-recorded study series on FASTING for Lent Mid-Week to be streamed on GVTV channel 30 on every Wednesday at 7:00pm through the Lenten season and also posted on Grace LC face book and YouTube. In this fasting study series, I will try to address fasting not as unusual idiosyncrasy but rather as an urgent and necessary Christian discipline by studying & providing a historical survey of fasting in the Scripture.

After lent comes Holy Week, with His death on Good Friday and His resurrection on **EASTER** Sunday. Then we hear of His time with His disciples after He is risen from the dead until His Ascension. Then comes **PENTECOST**, and the start of the second half of the church year. We will continue to hear the Lord's Word that He gives to His people to live on until He returns in glory. It's quite a story: by following this church year calendar, we walk through the

the story from Jesus' birth until His return on the Last Day. As we do so, we hear from the Old Testament that this has been God's plan for salvation since the foundation of the world.

If you attend the story on a regular basis, you know the story well. (If you make it every other Sunday, then it's a bit like skipping every other chapter of a book, or every other episode of a TV show: it's still good, but the story is going to seem a little disconnected.)

The story of Jesus is a fascinating story and it's the true story of God's work for our salvation.

story designed by God to strengthen our relationship with the author and finisher of our faith, the reason for the seasons, Jesus.

The story of Jesus is a powerful story. It has the power not only to strengthen the relationship, but also create the relationship with God. It has the power over human reasoning and dialectical materialism. There is a person I know from Ethiopia. He is a highly educated in Communist philosophy. After he was educated in a communist country he came back to Ethiopia and became a political advisor of the national leaders of the Communist party in Ethiopia. One of the issues of their time was what to do with the Christians. Because when they are persecuted, they multiplied.

Continued on Page 7



While we are in this transition time of worshipping at different places with limited fellowship, we are going to try a new way to share with each other. We are looking for members of the congregation to share favorite memories associated with our church. The memories can be of a wedding, baptism, confirmation, Sunday School program, you name it. Whatever is meaningful to you that you are willing to share fits the bill for this project. If you can't decide on just one favorite memory, you are welcome to submit more than one. We will take the memories submitted and publish them in the Scroll over the next several months. Submissions can be sent in to the church office or sent via e-mail to gracelc@gvtel.com. As an incentive to get submissions in soon, a \$50 Ness Café gift certificate has been donated. The authors of submissions made by April 1 (one entry per author) will be entered into a drawing for the gift certificate. But don't wait! We would love to have some stories to share in the April Scroll.



SUMMER IS COMING

- ⇒ Pathways is planning for Summer 2021 and will have safety protocols put in place for a great summer experience
- ⇒ Temperature checks and sanitizing
- ⇒ Safe cabin groups
- ⇒ Pick up and drop off registration
- ⇒ We will be following the CDC guidelines for our area to make our campers experience great

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Pathways Bible Camps.org
218-227-5107



The Annual Meeting for Grace Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday March 14th following worship service.



Time to Spring Ahead

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday March 14th.

Don't forget to set your clock ahead one (1) hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.

From our Cemetery Association

The Grace Cemetery Association (GCA) serves the members of the United Methodist and Grace Lutheran Churches of Erskine. The GCA Board of Directors currently manages and maintains three cemeteries, Pioneer, Synod and Fairview.

The GCA provides perpetual care and does not sell real estate. The member fee is currently \$100 and the non-member fee is \$200.00. Non-members are welcome and accepted. All burials must be approved and a Perpetual Care fee is required for each, including cremations. Unless arrangements have been made, a Perpetual Care fee must be paid prior to burial. Assumptions should not be made that sites (commonly referred to as a Plots) are reserved. We are thankful that many have planned and confirmed their site. Site confirmation and burials must be arranged by contacting GCA Board member Patti Bacon.

Most of the interments occur at Fairview which is our main cemetery. Occasionally, after careful consultation, there is an interment at the Synod Cemetery. No interments are allowed at the Pioneer Cemetery.

Perpetual Care fees, financial do-

nations, memorials and gifts make up the operational funding for the GCA. Board members are volunteers and are not compensated. Expenses are primarily for cemetery planning and maintenance.

If a burial (including a cremation) has occurred without prior approval and fee payment, please contact Patti Bacon, or another board member.

Contact information for current GCA Board Members:

Russ Bacon – Vice-President,
Interim President 218-687-2016

Patti Bacon – Cemetery Sexton
Duties 218-687-2016

Daryl Halvorson – Cemetery
Sexton & Mowing Duties
218-687-5190

Jason Juve – Acting Director/
bal. of Al Jenson term
218-687-2929

Karl Erickson – Secretary/
Treasurer 218-289-1427

C/o GCA, PO Box 102, Erskine,
MN 56535

FROM THE PASTOR, con't.
Persecution did not diminish their relationship with Jesus. This man starts to read the Bible to know more about it and attack Christians. At last, he ended believing in Jesus Christ. Now he is a lay evangelist and leader in the church. The story of Jesus in the Bible has a power to change.

May the peace that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord to life everlasting. Amen.

~Pr. Tsena



PALM SUNDAY
March 28th

9:45AM-Sunday School

10:30AM-Worship